



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
CALIFORNIA DIVISION
980 Ninth Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA. 95814-2724
February 15, 2005

McKen
Chittender

IN REPLY REFER TO
HDA-CA
Document # 46655

Mr. Will Kempton, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

RECEIVED

FEB 18 2005

Attention: Rachel Falsetti, Transportation Programming, MS-82

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. Kempton:

SUBJECT: FY 2004/05 FSTIP Amendment No. 2 – Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)

We have completed our review of Amendment No. 2 to the MCAG's 2004/05-2006/07 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated February 8, 2005. MCAG adopted this amendment with Resolution No. 2005/01-20 on January 20, 2005, approving these program modifications and reaffirming the conformity of the MCAG FTIP with the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality.

This amendment was requested by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to add new projects in Merced County that include funding from the Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation (HBRR) and Hazard Elimination Safety (HES) programs.

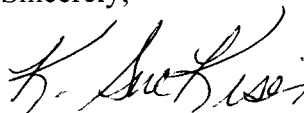
We accept this amendment in accordance with the provisions of 23 CFR Part 450. We find that this amendment was developed through a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process carried out in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. section 134, and section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. §1607). Based on our review, we find that changes made to the MCAG FTIP by this amendment are for project types within Table 2 & 3 – Exempt Projects, of 40 CFR 93.126 and 93.127, and are exempt from the requirement that a conformity determination be performed. Therefore, we find this FTIP to conform to the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP).

This finding has been coordinated with the regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Region IX office of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in accordance with the procedures outlined on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Highway Administration, California Division, and the Federal Transit Administration, Region IX dated July 15, 2004, on Roles and Responsibilities for Single Mode Amendments.

This letter also constitutes approval and inclusion of the MCAG's FTIP Amendment No. 2 into California's 2004/05 – 2006/07 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP).

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Mr. Leigh Levine of the Federal Highway Administration, California Division office at (916) 498-5034.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. K. Fong", written in a cursive style.

For
Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator